



## NEW PATH FOR RURAL FIRE'S TOP MAN

It's the end of an era for our rural fire manager Roger Nelson – but the start of a new one!

From July 1, new legislation means rural fire is no longer the responsibility of local authorities. That means Roger's role with us ends, but thankfully he'll still be looking after the community as part of the newly formed Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ).

FENZ will be an amalgamation of the New Zealand Fire Service, the National Rural Fire Authority, all 12 rural fire districts and 26 territorial authority rural fire authorities.

Roger will head the local division of FENZ's rural fire department, and will move across the road to the Fire Service building on the corner of Rifle Range Road and Lake Terrace.

"It's a really exciting development that I think will benefit the rural fire sector and the Taupō District as a whole," he said. "The new legislation means there will be better training

available to our volunteers, better resourcing, and a focus on health and safety."

Roger has been with the council for nearly a decade, so for him it will be quite a change.

"I think it's going to be awesome. There are going to be some huge opportunities going into a larger entity."

Although he would miss the team at the council, he was looking forward to new challenges.

"The best part for the community is that they should not really notice any change – they will receive the same high level of service from the rural fire team. Behind the scenes, everything will be a lot more efficient and stream-lined, which is great."

The changes to the rural fire service will not affect the way emergency services respond – in the case of an emergency or if you see suspicious fire, dial 111.

## HAVE A CUPPA WITH THE MAYOR AND CEO

Would you like to talk to Mayor David Trewavas about a probing issue? Or have you got some good ideas you'd like to share with him or our chief executive Gareth Green?

Come along to Licorice Café on State Highway 1 in Motuoapa on Thursday, July 6 to have a chat. They'll be at the café from 10.30am to 11.30am and are looking forward to meeting you.

There's no need to RSVP, just turn up on the day, grab a coffee and share your thoughts. See you there!



## » Have you registered your dog?

**Calling all dog owners!** By law, your pooch needs to be registered and wearing a new red tag by July 1 – that's tomorrow!

If you've registered your dog online, your tag will arrive in the post. If you still need to register your canine friend, pop into one of our offices in Taupo, Turangi or Mangakino today, or go to [taupo.govt.nz](http://taupo.govt.nz) to pay online.

If you've got any questions, please call our friendly team on 07 376 0899 and they'll be more than happy to help.



## » What's on?

- 13 July Miss Jean Batten, Great Lake Centre
- 14 July Firelight Celebration – Unison Light Trail, Tongariro South Domain
- 14 July Whisky and Jazz, Great Lake Centre
- 14-16 July Battle of the Mountains Film Festival, Great Lake Centre
- 15 July Biggest Little Circus, Tongariro North Domain
- 15 July Streets Alive, Tongariro Domain
- 15 July Ice Slide and Snow Globe by Night, Tongariro Domain
- 15 July The Great Lake Debate, Great Lake Centre

For more information on Taupō District events visit [www.GreatLakeTaupo.com](http://www.GreatLakeTaupo.com)

## IMPROVING OUR SYSTEMS: THE DOG CLASSIFICATION MATRIX

Classifying dogs as dangerous or menacing is no easy task for our compliance officers. To help them make informed decisions, we've introduced a new dog classification matrix that gives guidance, making things much simpler.

The matrix comprises a scoring system compliance officers use when they are called out to a dog-related incident.

It asks questions about the level of aggression, whether other dogs or people were injured and whether the dog has been involved in an incident before.

Each question has a correlating score, and when they are added together they give a total that tells the compliance officer which course of action should be taken.

It is then peer reviewed, meaning two officers have to agree before any classification is made.

Consents and regulatory manager Scott Devonport said the team started using the matrix earlier this year to create a more streamlined, transparent and fair process around dog classifications.

"This tool enables our compliance officers a way to quickly assess the risk a dog poses and take the safest course of action," he said.

The matrix has been developed in collaboration with Napier City Council to provide some consistency around dog classification.

